Get More Information about Hospital Care

Read, print, or download copies of the following by visiting www.medicare.gov, selecting "Resource Locator," and selecting "Publications."

- The "Guide to Choosing a Hospital"
- "Your Discharge Planning Checklist"
- "Your Medicare Rights and Protections"
- "Medicare and Your Hospital Benefits: Getting Started"

Compare Plans and Providers

Visit www.medicare.gov, select "Resource Locator," and then select one of the following:

- Health Plans
- Drug Plans
- Dialysis Facilities
- Home Health Agencies
- Nursing Homes
- Hospitals

CMS
CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

CMS Product No. 11342

June 2010

Medicare's Hospital Compare

Some hospitals do a better job of taking care of patients than others.

READMISSIONS
OUTPATIENT MEASURES
Medicare Volume
MEDICARE PAYMENT
CARDIAC SURGERY REGISTRY
Patient Survey
INPATIENT MEASURES
COMPARE HOSPITALS
HEART ATTACK CARE
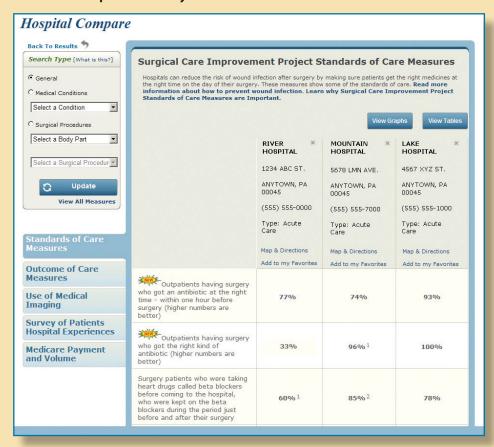HOME
Hospital Quality
Medical Imaging
Find Hospitals
PNEUMONIA CARE
SURGICAL CARE

Why should I compare hospitals?

Most people check restaurant ratings or read consumer reviews before they make a choice. Shouldn't you also check the quality of the hospitals you rely on when you need medical care?

In an emergency, you should go to the nearest hospital. When you can plan ahead, you and your doctor should discuss which hospital will best meet your health care needs. The information on the **Hospital Compare** Web tool can help you make an informed choice. **Visit www.medicare.gov/hospital.**

Here's a sample of what you'll see:

What kind of information is on Hospital Compare?

Hospital Compare gives you a "snapshot" of the quality of the hospitals in your area and around the nation.

- How recently-discharged patients responded to a national survey about their hospital experience. For example, how well their hospital's doctors and nurses communicate with patients, and how well they manage their patients' pain.

- How often each hospital gives recommended treatments for certain common conditions like heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, children's asthma, and for surgical patients.

- How each hospital's rates of readmission and 30-day mortality (death) rates for certain conditions compare with the national rate.

- How a hospital uses outpatient medical imaging tests (like CT scans and MRIs).

- How many people with Medicare have had certain procedures or have been treated for certain conditions at each hospital.

- How much Medicare pays a hospital (on average) when the hospital performs certain procedures or treats certain conditions.

Soon, Hospital Compare will have information about patient safety and hospital-acquired conditions, like infections. Check Hospital Compare regularly for updated information.